

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected.

Claim 1 was amended to include a limitation previously found in dependent claim 2, and this limitation has been deleted from claim 2. This limitation has therefore already been fully searched and examined, and the amendment should not require any additional searching.

Claim 9 was amended to include a limitation previously found in dependent claim 10, and this limitation has been deleted from claim 10. This limitation has therefore already been fully searched and examined, and the amendment should not require any additional searching.

Claim 15 was amended to include a limitation previously found in dependent claim 18, and this limitation has been deleted from claim 18. This limitation has therefore already been fully searched and examined, and the amendment should not require any additional searching.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7 and 9-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Althaus et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,853,657, hereinafter “Althaus”).

A prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of the claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. (*MPEP* § 2131; *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (Fed. Cir. 1990)). Anticipation is only shown where each and every limitation of the claimed

invention is found in a single prior art reference. (*MPEP* § 2131; *In re Donohue*, 766 F.2d 531, 534, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (*Fed. Cir.* 1985)).

Claim 1, as amended, requires “the forward voltage is employed to determine a forward current through the light source.”

Claim 9, as amended, includes a similar limitation, requiring “employing the forward voltage to determine a forward current through the light source.”

Claim 15, as amended, similarly requires “wherein the forward voltage is employed to determine one or both of a forward current through the light source and a die temperature for the light source.”

These limitations are not taught or suggested by Althaus. Althaus specifically teaches that “the measuring current I_m , which is lower than the threshold current of the semiconductor laser diode HLD, is set in the forward direction through the semiconductor laser diode HLD (steps 201, 202). Thereupon, the forward voltage U_f drop across the semiconductor laser diode HLD is measured” (col. 5, line 67 – col. 6, line 5). That is, in Althaus’s system, a controlled (and known) forward measuring current is passed through the diode, and the forward voltage across the diode is then directly measured. This is clearly much different than the claimed invention, where the forward voltage is used to determine the forward current.

As each independent claim distinguishes over Althaus, all anticipation rejections are traversed.

Claims 8, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Althaus in view of *Sanchez* (U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0249252, hereinafter “Sanchez”).

Sanchez also fails to teach or suggest the limitations discussed above. As no cited art teaches or suggests the limitations of each independent claim, all obviousness rejections are traversed as well.

All rejections are therefore overcome, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.


If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK BUTRUS P.C.

Date: June 23, 2006



William A. Munck
Registration No. 39,308

P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
(972) 628-3600 (main number)
(972) 628-3616 (fax)
E-mail: *wmunck@munckbutrus.com*